Connectivity for tourist destinations

†2390. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has held talks with concerned Ministries with a view to connecting tourist destinations with rail and air and providing transport facility;

(b) whether her Ministry has ever approached the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for the development of highways for transportation of more tourists to tourist destinations; and

(c) if so, the details of such talks, approach and exchange of views?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism has requested Ministry of Railways to upgrade the railway stations at identified major tourist destinations and also improve passenger amenities both at the railway stations and in the trains. It was also requested to introduce tourist trains. The Ministry of Civil Aviation was requested to augment air connectivity to important tourist destinations including hilly areas and also to develop non metro-airports at major tourist/destinations/circuits into would standards. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways was requested to widen the National Highways and improve other roads leading to important tourist destinations, Heritage sites and Buddhist sites in the country.

Foreign tourists visiting India

†2391. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during the years, 2004-05 and 2005-06, year-wise;

(b) the number of tourists who visited India from each country during each of the above years;

(c) the number of foreign tourists out of them who visited Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh during each of the year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of main spots of attractions to foreign tourists in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The estimated number of foreign tourist arrivals to India during 2004, 2005 and 2006 are 3.46 million, 3.92 million and 4.43 million respectively.

(b) The number of foreign tourist arrivals to India from different countries during the years 2004 and 2005 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The foreign tourist visits to Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh during 2004 and 2005 are given below:

States	Foreign Tourist Visits	
	2004	2005
Madhya Pradesh	145335	160832
Chhattisgarh	3000	912

(d) Some of the main spots of attraction to tourist in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are given below:—

Madhya Pradesh:-

Gwalior, Kanha, Khajuraho, Mandu, Omkareshwar, Orchha, Sanchi, Bandavgarh, Bhimbetka, Pachmarhi, Chitrakute.

Chhattisgarh:-

Bastar (Chitrokote, Kanger Valley National park, Tribal Village, Kutumsar Caves), Kankar, Sirpur, Kawardha (Bhoramdeo Temple, Kawardha Palace).

Statement

Foreign Tourist Arrivals to India by Country of Nationality during 2004 and 2005

Nationality	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	
	2004	2005
North America		
Canada	135884	157643
U.S.A.	526120	611165

Nationality	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	
	2004	2005
Total	**662004**	**768808**
Central and South America		
Brazil	7397	7005
Mexico	4570	5398
Others	16198	23183
Total	**28165**	**35586**
Western Europe		
Austria	21093	27187
Belgium	24007	25596
Denmark	15805	20170
Finland	12525	16258
France	131824	152258
Germany	116679	120243
Greece	4468	4793
Ireland	8996	10052
Italy	65561	67642
Netherlands	51211	52755
Norway	10631	11194
Portugal	10648	11457
Spain	42895	45247
Sweden	26154	28799
Switzerland	28260	34311
U.K.	555907	651083
Others	1633	3074
Total	**1128297**	**1282119**
Eastern Europe		
Czechoslovakia	4114	4783
Poland	8445	10983

Nationality	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	
	2004	2005
CIS	61187	75242
Others	8680	10437
Total	**82426**	**101445**
Africa		
Egypt	3781	4048
Kenya	17538	19816
Mauritius	19823	19760
Nigeria	6659	10049
Sourth Africa	32148	39229
Tanzania	9953	11193
Others	25591	30706
Total	**115493**	**134801**
West Asia		
Bahrain	4414	4923
Israel	39083	42866
Oman	14927	14979
Saudi Arabia	11929	12444
Turkey	7008	7906
U.A.E.	22668	24560
Yemen Arab Rep.	8826	9423
Others	13953	16720
Total	**122808**	**133821**
South Asia		
Afghanistan	12705	14025
Iran	24733	28691
Maldives	21099	33915
Nepal	51534	77024
Pakistan	67416	88609

Nationality	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	
	2004	2005
Bangladesh	477446	456371
Sri Lanka	128711	136400
Bhutan	7054	6934
Total	**790698**	**841969**
South East Asia		
Indonesia	11408	12640
Malaysia	84390	96276
Myanmar	4932	5652
Philippines	10492	11422
Singapore	60710	68666
Thailand	33442	41978
Others	3736	4774
Total	**209110**	**241408**
East Asia		
China (Main)	34100	44897
China (Taiwan)	18179	18894
Japan	96851	103082
Korea (South)	47835	49895
Others	4662	6799
Total	**201627**	**223567**
Australasia		
Australia	81608	96258
Newzealand	16762	20463
Others	2574	3057
Total	**100944**	**119778**
Others	14471	21818
Stateless	1434	13490
Grand Total	3457477	3918610